ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REFORMATORY SCHOOL

AT

YERAVDA

FOR THE

YEAR 1902.

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REFORMATORY SCHOOL :
Yeravda, 16th February 1903.

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE REFORMATORY SCHOOL, YERAVDA;

To

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, POONA.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report of the Yeravda Reformatory School for the year ending 31st December 1902. The Report has been condensed as far as possible to the limit prescribed in paragraph 4 of Government Resolution No. 667, dated 7th April 1902.

The wishes of the Government of India, *vide* their Resolution Nos. 374-79, dated 2nd September 1899, regarding the improvement of the industrial education imparted to the boys and the employment of, and maintenance of a watch over, the discharged boys have been kept steadily in view and our efforts to secure these objects have been successful to a large extent as will be seen from the paragraphs dealing with those topics.

2. *Number of Juveniles in the School.*—There were 123 boys in the Reformatory on the 1st January 1902 and 23 boys were admitted during the year. The total number of boys discharged during the same period was 25, of whom 19 were released on expiry of sentence and 6 on account of having attained the age of 18 years. One boy was transferred back to the Native State of Jath to which he belonged. Thus the number of boys in the Reformatory on the last day of the year was 120. The average daily number for the year under report was 125 against 124 in the preceding year, while the school accommodation remained at 120 boys as before. It will be seen that there was overcrowding throughout the year; and this in spite of admission having been refused in 25 cases against 21 last year. Sanction to increase the accommodation from 120 to 148 boys has been granted by Government, and the necessary building to accommodate the additional number of juveniles is under construction.

Of the 120 boys in the Reformatory on the 31st December 1902, one was under 10 years of age, 10 were under 12 years, 29 were under 14, 74 of and under 16, and 6 were over 16 years. Compared with last year's, the number of boys below the age of 12 years remained exactly the same, *viz.*, 11. The number of boys of and under 16 years increased by 25 while that of boys under 14 decreased by 14 and of those over 16 by 14. The large reduction in the number of boys aboye the age of 16 years is a salutary sign as also the preponderance of those between the ages of 12 and 16 years, who together numbered 103 out of the total of 120 boys.

The classification according to race and religion is as follows:—Native Christian 1, Mahomedans 19, Bráhmin 1, Low castes 23, and Other Hindus 76. The numbers of Bráhmins and Native Christians diminished by one each and of Other Hindus by 4, while that of Mahomedans increased by 2 and of Low castes by 1.

According to languages the numbers were:—62 Maráthis, 31 Gujarátis, 11 Hindustánis, 12 Kánaris and 4 Sindhis. The number of Hindustáni and Maráthi-speaking boys remained exactly the same as in 1901, the Gujarátis and the Kánaris increased by one each, while the Sindhis diminished by 1.

Out of the 120 boys, 3 belonged to Hyderabad Assigned Districts, 1 to Holkar's territory and 116 to British territory, of whom 1 was from the Punjáb.

3. *Admissions during the year.*—One of the 23 boys admitted was 8 years old and 6 were 10 years old. The number of boys 11 years old was 4, of those 12 years old 5, 13 years old 2, 14 years old 2, and 15 years 3.

Of the 23 boys admitted, 12 were convicted of theft, 4 of lurking house trespass and theft, 3 of abetment of theft, 2 of dacoity, 1 of receiving and concealing stolen property, and 1 of endangering the safety of the travelling public by throwing stones at a passing railway train which in the present case deprived a Márwári boy of one of his eyes. The value of property stolen or robbed was very considerable in one case, being as much as Rs. 2,125. This was a case of theft in a dwelling house, of which 5 boys of the sweeper caste, of ages varying from 10 to 13 years, were convicted by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay. The amount next in value was Rs. 450 robbed in a dacoity. Other amounts were Rs. 49-10-0, Rs. 39-5-3, Rs. 20, Rs. 11-5-6, and 5 below Rs. 10 each.

Three of the 23 boys have been sentenced to be detained for 3 years, 6 for 4 years, and 14 for 5 years.

Out of the 23 boys, the city of Bombay contributed 5, Poona District 4, Khándesh 3, Ratnágiri, Násik and Berár 2 each, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Dhárwár, Bijápur, Sátára and Ahmednagar 1 each.

Seven of the 23 admissions were habituals, while 16 were convicted for the first time. Of the seven habituals, 2 had three previous convictions, 3 had two and the remaining 2 had one previous conviction.

Lastly of the 23 boys, 21 were totally illiterate, while 2 were able to read and write a little.

4. *Conduct and Punishment.*—The boys' general behaviour continued to be satisfactory on the whole. The total number of school offences for the year under report was 17 or fewer by 2 than last year. It is to be regretted that one of the boys and that a monitor proved himself utterly incapable of appreciating the milder *regimé* and escaped thrice in the course of the year. On the occasion of his last escape he aggravated the offence by enticing another boy of the school who helped to get on the top of the enclosure-wall by mounting on his shoulders and whom he in turn pulled up. They were both recaptured and prosecuted for escaping from lawful custody and were sentenced to undergo imprisonment, the first for 12 months and the other for 6 months, after discharge from the Reformatory. The example to the school has been a good one inasmuch as since October, the month in which the above sentences were passed up to the end of January the punishment register has remained blank.

5. *Discharged pupils.*—Of the 25 boys discharged during the year, 3 had learnt carpentry, 4 Blacksmith's work, 4 Book-binding, 2 painting and varnishing, and 12 farming. Reports have been received about all the 25 boys which may be summarised as under :—11 boys have been following the trade learnt in the Reformatory, 8 are occupied in other industries, 3 are living with parents, 1 died, and 2 cannot be traced. Eight of the boys are cultivators, 2 are painters, 2 factory-boys, 2 labourers, 1 is a carpenter, 1 a book-binder, one a mill-hand, and 2 are assisting their fathers in their respective business, one that of a Támboli or seller of beetle leaves and the other that of a barber. One of them is employed in the Technical Workshop of the Poona Municipality as carpenter, one in the cotton mill at Mundwa, one in a ginning factory at Khámgaon, two are employed in the Kirkee Ammunition Factory, of whom one is a book-binder and the other a factory-boy, 2 in Seth Jusuf Jaffer's coach-building factory as painters, and so on. It will be seen that we have been able to get information of the whereabouts and doings of all the discharged boys except two, and that seven boys are employed in public factories, nine are working with parents or relations, and 6 under private individuals. But that every one of these 22 boys is occupied in honest work of one kind or another is a matter for congratulation. I may add here, as an instance of how sensitive these boys are, that of the two boys who remain untraced, one is reported to have been living with his parents in Ratnágiri, but on learning that enquiry was being made about him he has disappeared, probably hid himself for a time.

The statement "Reformatory Schools II," which forms an appendix to this Report and furnishes similar information with respect to the boys that were discharged in the three years preceding the year of report, is also much more satisfactory than the previous year's. Out of a total of 88 boys 29, *i.e.* 33 per cent. against last year's 43·5 per cent., remain either unreported or untraced. Of these, it may be noted, 4 were discharged in 1889, 19 in 1900, and 6 in 1901. Of the remaining 59 boys, 13 are occupied in the trade learnt in the Reformatory and 28 in other industries, 6 are living with parents, 4 have died, 6 are reported as reconvicted and 2 as bad characters. The percentage of boys bad and reconvicted has come down to half of what it was in the preceding year, being 14 against 28 respectively; while of the boys reported upon, 85 per cent. are occupied in industries, including those living with parents; the percentage of such boys to the total number of boys discharged in the three preceding years being 52.

I am in communication with a coach-builder and cabinet-maker of the city, who has expressed himself willing to take a few boys on license under Section 18 (1) of the Reformatory Schools Act for employment in his factory. His application to that effect will be laid before the Visiting Committee at their next meeting and submitted to you with their recommendation as required by Rule 60. This will open out another wide field for the boys in future.

6. *Marks and Gratuities.*—The average monthly number of boys who earned gratuity by their industry and good behaviour in the year under report was 104, and the total amount of gratuity earned was Rs. 278-15-0 against 110 and Rs. 262-7-0 in the preceding year. The amount disbursed as gratuity to discharged boys was Rs. 168-8-0 against Rs. 184-9-3 in 1901. It should be noted that the number of boys discharged for the two years of comparison is 25 and 35, respectively, which gives the average earnings of a boy at Rs. 6-11-2 for the current and Rs. 5-9-6 for the preceding year.

7. *Sanitation and Health.*—The health of the inmates of the Reformatory was good throughout the year, although the number of admissions into hospital was much larger than last year, being 109 against 75, respectively, due to an increase in ague cases and of itch. The average daily number of sick patients was, however, 2·9 against 3·1 of 1901. It is very satisfactory to note that during the year there was no death among the inmates nor any serious illness. Major J. Jackson, M.B., I.M.S., Superintendent, Yeraoda Central Prison, paid the school 8 visits in his capacity of Medical Supervisor, and since his transfer last July his successor, Captain Laing, M.B., I.M.S., visited the School twice in the same capacity; and our best thanks are due to both these officers for taking so much interest in the boys' welfare.

8. *Building and Accommodation.*—The construction of the new dormitory for which a proposal was submitted to Government last year was taken in hand in October and is proceeding apace. The widening of the entrance, as well as extension of the compound by throwing out the wall to the south-west of the school, are included in the new work now going on. Objection having been taken to grinding on the floor on the score of want of cleanliness, 8 masonry platforms have been erected for the grinding mills. With these additions the existing buildings have been kept in thorough repairs and clean as usual by the Public Works Department.

9. *Diet and Clothing.*—Diet and clothing require no comment this year.

10. *Industries.*—The industries were the same as in previous years. All departments were fully busy, except perhaps book-binding, which could have easily coped with more orders had they been forthcoming. Furniture takes the first place among the industries, the amount and value of the work turned out having been more than double that of the preceding year. Carriage repairing brought in nearly as much as last year. The number of books bound and repaired was 423, or two hundred more than last year. The total value of the manufactures was Rs. 2,369-8-6 against Rs. 2,112-11-2 of the preceding year. Deducting Rs. 1,680-11-3 for raw material and Rs. 269-13-6 for depreciation of tools and plant, the net profit for the year comes to Rs. 418-15-9 against Rs. 281-5-7 for the previous year. The total number of boys engaged in the trades was 73, of whom 26 were practising carpentry, 14 smithery, 19 painting, and 14 book-binding.

Agriculture, which comprised flower-gardening, vegetable-gardening and growing of *jowári*, yielded Rs. 605-1-10 against Rs. 588-1-2 in the preceding year. The expenditure on account of seeds, implements, &c., amounted to Rs. 293-11-1, leaving for net profit Rs. 311-6-9 against last year's Rs. 295-10-11. The number engaged in cultivation was 40, of whom 13 were learning flower-gardening. The interest created in floriculture last year was well kept up.

The total profit from all industries for the year under report was Rs. 730-6-6 after covering all costs.

The question of securing new land for agricultural purposes for the Reformatory is still far from settled. The latest arrangement proposed at the meeting of the Educational Inspector, Central Division, and the Superintendent, Yeraoda Central Prison, last August, was that we might for the present continue on the old plot, restoring to the Jail authorities a portion of it which is required for building quarters for their press establishment.

11. *Maintenance charges.*—The total maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 15,724-4-0 against Rs. 15,689-8-6 last year. Deducting Rs. 730-6-6 on account of net profit earned and Rs. 486-6-5 on account of contributions from Native States for boys belonging to their territories, the net cost to Government on account of the institution amounts to Rs. 14,507-7-1.

Rs. 1,570, being the balance of the special grant sanctioned in the preceding year for the equipment of the new Manual Training Class, was all expended in fitting up the class with twenty carpenters' benches, 40 drawing tables and stools, and the necessary tools.

12. *Establishment.*—An addition was made to the teaching staff by Government sanctioning a teacher on Rs. 20 a month to teach drawing and vernacular Standard V. A suitable man has been selected from the primary school masters, and the Educational Inspector's order for his appointment is soon expected. Hospital Assistant Bhaskar Narayan was transferred to Alandi after six years' service in the Reformatory, and 4th Grade Hospital Assistant G. G. Wagle, a newly passed pupil of the Byramji Jijibhai Medical School, was appointed in his place.

There were, I regret to report, three casualties in the establishment, two among the watching staff and one among the trade instructors. Blacksmith Krishna Murari who had been obliged by failing health to go on leave during the last month of the year died on the 11th ultimo from heart disease. He had been serving in the Reformatory for 9 years. Peon Bachu Devi died on 24th May 1902 from dropsy after a service of 8 years, and Havildár Sayed Hussin Ismail whose service extended over 24 years died in October from dysentery. The old man, he was 57 at the time of his death, was ever willing to make himself useful. In addition to his own duties as Havildár, the deceased used to teach Urdu to the Mahomedan boys as a voluntary subject, and at the Deputy Inspector's examination 6 out of the 12 boys he was teaching were reported to have read very well.

13. *Education.*—There are 75 boys in the Manual Training Class going through a regular course of exercises in wood work. Of these 43 are 2nd year and 32 first year. Each of these boys receives instruction in Manual Training for one hour and a half on three days in the week.

The school was examined by the Deputy Educational Inspector, Poona on 30th July, and the results were declared as excellent. All the 10 boys presented under Standard IV passed in Arithmetic, Reading and Writing, and only one of them failed in History and Geography. Of the 23 boys examined in Standard III, 22 passed in Reading, 21 in Writing and in History and Geography, and 19 in Arithmetic. In Standard II out of a total of 27 boys 25 passed in Arithmetic and Writing, 24 in Reading and 21 in History and Geography, while in Standard I 34 passed in Writing out of 41, 33 in Reading and 28 in Arithmetic. Of the 16 boys in the Infant Class 11 were advanced. Out of 101 boys examined in Standards I to IV 76, *i. e.*, 75 per cent. passed in all heads. Twelve boys had learnt to read Urdu as a voluntary subject, and 6 of them read very well before the Deputy Inspector. The work of each school master was

pronounced excellent. The Infants and First Standard classes are taught for three hours and the other standards for two and a half hours every day.

The inculcating of moral lessons in the class room, recital of moral and religious poetry morning and evening, and Sunday readings were all duly kept up as before for the boys' moral improvement; and from their generally quiet and respectful demeanour at all times in and out of school hours I would venture to remark that a change for the better has been taking place in them. In this connection may be noted the testimony of the Deputy Educational Inspector who found them 'Orderly' while under examination.

The school library contained 79 books for general reading which were issued in the course of the year by 75 boys against 67 in the preceding year to be read in their leisure hours.

14. *Exercise and Recreation.*—The school played about a dozen cricket matches last season, of which two were with the boys of the Bishop High School and one was with the Taylor High School. Our boys won 5 of the matches and one was drawn. Free gymnastics and drill were practised throughout the year as usual. The boys were also sent out to the annual fair at Párbati, the Foot-ball Tournament at Ghorpari, the Presidency Cricket Match, and the Coronation celebrations on the 1st January last. It is to be regretted, however, that their enthusiasm received a most unexpected check by the Poona Schools Athletic Association refusing to admit the Reformatory to compete at their annual sports last year. The boys felt the opprobrium so keenly that they would not even go to see the sports.

15. *Visiting Committee.*—The Visiting Committee paid in all 12 monthly and 8 fortnightly visits. It is with profound regret that one has to record the loss of two members of the Visiting Committee, *viz.*, Sirdár Khán Bahádur Dorabji Padamji, who departed this life on 11th July last, and Ráo Bahádur Ganesh Govind Gokhale, whose death was announced on the 27th ultimo, both men of great abilities and genuine sympathy with the objects of this institution. Both the gentlemen had been on the Committee since 1890, the year following the opening of the Reformatory, and their interest in every project for the amelioration of its inmates had been unceasing up to the time of their demise. The former's place was filled up by his brother Mr. Naurosji Padamji; no successor to the latter has been yet nominated.

His Excellency Lord Northcote visited the school on 30th June 1902, and saw the boys at cricket and drill, after which His Excellency went round the buildings and expressed himself "much pleased with the appearance of the boys and with the general arrangements."

Among other visitors to the school in the course of the year were yourself, Mr. E. Giles, the permanent Director of Public Instruction, who paid about half a dozen casual visits before he proceeded on leave, and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay.

16. In conclusion, our best thanks are due to Colonel Onslow, commanding the Bombay Sappers and Miners, for presenting a foot-ball, and to Sirdár R. B. Coopooswami V. Mudliar for a present of two garden benches for the boys' use.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
N. M. PAJNIGAR,
Superintendent.

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I.

Reformatory Schools.

School			1
Pupils.			
At the beginning of the year			123
Admitted during the year			23
Discharged during the year			26
Died during the year			...
Remaining at the end of the year			120
Education on Admission.			
Able to read			11
Illiterate			109
Religion.			
Hindus			100
Muhammadans			19
Others			1
Instruction.			
Taught Agriculture			47
Taught other Industries			73
Net Expenditure	Rs. ...		14,507 7 1

II.

Reformatory Schools.

After conduct of boys discharged during three years preceding the year of Report.

(1) Total number discharged in the three years		88
(2) Number discharged who were taught Agriculture		35
(3) Number in Entry (2) occupied in Agriculture		4
(4) Number who were taught other trades and handicrafts ...		53
(5) Number in Entry (4) occupied in the trades and handicrafts taught		9
(6) Occupied in industries not taught at School .	Agriculture ...	...
	Other Industries...	28
(7) Unemployed or with friends		6
(8) Re-convicted		6
(9) Of bad character		2
(10) Died		4
(11) Not known or not reported on		29